



Features: Students journal about Boston Marathon experience

A&E: Editor critiques Lily Allen's album "Alright, Still"

Opinions: TU counselor reflects on his process of grief

Va. Tech heartbreak: A Taylor alumna recounts her story



Photo courtesy of Manas Tungare (flickr.com)

On Tuesday evening mourners from the university and nearby communities gather in the Drillfield at Virginia Tech to honor those who died in Monday's shooting.

BY MEGAN BAIRD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"When I came to work on Monday, it was an ordinary day," Lynn Davis, public affairs director for Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources, said. "Now none of us will ever be the same."

Monday's Virginia Tech massacre – the deadliest U.S. shooting ever by a single gunman – left at least 32 dead and 15 wounded after student Cho Seung-Hu opened fire in a dorm and in the university's Norris Hall.

Davis, a Taylor student from 1963 to 1965, was in the building in front of the dorm 45 minutes after the first of two shootings took place. She said the killer probably passed her office to return to his dorm, where he made

"The strength of the community caring comes from the prayers uplifting us all ... By God's grace we will get through this."

-Lynn Davis-

a video manifesto he sent to NBC before heading to Norris Hall.

"My English graduate student assistant passed Norris Hall while the ... other killings were taking place and heard the shots," Davis said. "When she got to my office, she was completely devastated and crying."

At around 9:15 a.m., Davis received an email from Virginia Tech's University Relations warning everyone to stay away from windows and lock themselves in their rooms.

"The stories are endless," Davis said. "I had to take a sister of a brother ... who

was killed to find out where and when she can claim the body. She was in tears. The sadness is beyond grasping."

Davis, who handles media relations for the College of Natural Resources, has been working with worldwide media since the tragedy.

On Wednesday, she met with an Israeli journalist who was reporting on the heroic actions of Professor Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor who was shot while blocking the door to a classroom.

She also attended Virginia Tech's convocation, where President Bush and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine addressed the tragedy.

Davis said the media's response has been "fairly good."

"In crises and tragedy, it is human nature to want to find someone or something to blame, so it was easy for the media to say Virginia Tech should have done this or that," Davis said. "The real story here is that the killer was a very angry man with many emotional and social problems."

According to Davis, people had tried to get psychological and emotional help for Cho.

In 2005, according to CNN.com, Virginia Tech police talked with Cho after two female students reported he was stalking them and again when they were told Cho might commit suicide.

Cho then received an evaluation in a mental health facility after police gave him a temporary detention order, and the court determined he was only a threat to himself, CNN.com said.

"The laws do not allow an institution or person to make a person get help," Davis

said. "The legal system needs to interface better with the mental health support structures to more effectively get persons help who may harm themselves or others."

Virginia Tech did have an emergency plan in place before the shootings and had

"The minute it was happening I was praying for God's grace and the many, many families out there."

-Nelson Rediger-

begun improving its campus-wide alert systems, msnbc.com said.

"There will be some changes made [to university security]," Davis said. "But basically you cannot prevent all evil from taking place in

any city. Twenty-six thousand students are here, with 10,000 staff and students. It is a city."

Nelson Rediger, associate executive director of the William Taylor Foundation, knew Davis when she attended Taylor and has stayed in contact with her.

"The minute it was happening, I was praying for God's grace and the many, many families out there," he said. "[Davis] is right there, and she's a very, very sensitive, very caring, very servant-oriented gal."

Davis credits God with helping her and others make it through this week.

"The strength of the community caring comes from the prayers uplifting us all," she said. "... By God's grace we will get through this."



Photo courtesy of Sam Dean of The Roanoke Times

Sophomore Bethany Lambright mourns at Tuesday's convocation.

Kerr to emphasize holistic Christianity

BY LAUREN FREE
CONTRIBUTOR

Excerpts from an interview with Youth Conference speaker J.R. Kerr.

Can you describe your current ministry?

I am the senior leader at North Way Christian Community, which is a church of 4,000 to 5,000 people. It's an awesome church! We have two campuses: one in the suburbs of Pittsburgh and the other in the city. I am responsible for actually leading the church.

I came to North Way two years ago to be the teaching pastor, but within a year, the elders asked that I consider entering into the senior leader position.

My role is to preach 50 to 60 percent of the time. I communicate the gospel – and I love it – to the local body of Christ. I also develop teams, love on the staff, cast a vision for the church.

It comes down to two simple things. One, I am made to lead in the local church and figure out how to live life together in the local church so that others might know Jesus. Two, our vision is to set people free to follow Jesus. And because of this, we are highly involved in justice issues, addiction issues and just life issues.

As a Taylor grad, what are a few of your thoughts regarding the university?

Taylor changed my life. When I came to Taylor, I was just a chump. I was a cocky, college-freshman soccer player.

You see, I was the worst kind of freshman. I came from a really dysfunctional background. Most of my family doesn't know Jesus.

When I came to Taylor, I knew that I wanted to make a difference for Jesus, but at that point, I mostly wanted people to notice me. But the people at Taylor, like [Taylor President Emeritus] Jay Kesler, [Biblical Studies Professor] Bill Heth and the list goes on and on, changed me. Taylor saved my life. It became my home.

You see, when you leave a dysfunctional home like mine was, you're in need of a real home. I'll never forget when I drove away from Taylor my senior year. I understood that God had used that place to change my life and that I now had a responsibility to bring people to that community we love so much at Taylor.

When we graduate from Taylor, we are given the gift of Christian community. I mean, I'm 31 and the leader of a megachurch. That's sick! There are still times I look to our elders and say, "Are you sure?" But because of Taylor and the men and women at Taylor who molded me, I am who I am today and able to do what I do. My prayer is that he will choose to use me

in the ways he used the men and women who impacted me at Taylor. I was loved well there, even though I was a slave to sin.

Can you tell me a little bit about your family?

I'm married to a Taylor girl, although she did transfer out. Her name is Rachel, and we have two beautiful little girls: Madeline, who is 4, and Claire, who is almost 2. We love being a family. We love serving Jesus because we think that the church actually starts in the home.

My wife and I have been married for eight years. She is the clearest picture of God's love that I have ever seen. She recently came through cancer, so it's been a tough year. Yet the cancer has served to show us that number one, even in the midst of the most difficult time in our lives, we believe that Jesus Christ is real. And number two, we see how much we need each other and love each other.

What do you plan to speak about at YC?

Waking God. Well, the whole idea is that we tend to live as though God is asleep. I feel as though we tend to treat him as though he is only a part of our lives when we invite him to be a part of our lives.

I'll start by preaching from the beginning of the Bible. My goal is to reveal that God has been involved from the beginning and that his goal is to love us all deeply.

We'll start by talking about a personal relationship with him, focusing on the individual life, and end by talking about waking God in the world. I want to emphasize that a relationship with God is not bound to chapel, church or the ministry.

We'll talk about how God wants to be a part of our community, because I feel as though this generation wants to be a part of something bigger, but at the same time, wants to be intimately known.

We'll talk about the church, because I also think we're raising a generation that does not love the church, but actually despises it.

And then we'll wrap up by talking about the influence that God wants us to have in the world.

Any other thoughts?

Any time I go to do a speaking engagement, my prayer is that I will get out of the way. I want to be used in a way that will provide God with all of the glory and honor. I don't really get nervous a lot, but it's an honor to go back to Taylor, and I take this privilege very seriously.

I guess I'd just ask people to pray that God will change lives. I firmly believe that the speaker isn't the most important part, but the relationships the students build with do what I do. My prayer is that he will choose to use me

Taylor Theatre's 'The Chalk Garden' redefines plot expectations

BY ELIZA DHONAU
CONTRIBUTOR

Stories about bratty children and radical governesses are familiar, but "The Chalk Garden," performed by the Taylor Theatre, puts a novel spin on this classic plot.

"The characters are eccentric, funny and weird," Tracy Manning, Taylor Theatre's producing director, said. "It's a very funny play. I like to call it a 'dramedy.'"

The story focuses on a wealthy woman's (senior Michelle Hewitt) struggle with raising her 16-year-old granddaughter, Laurel (junior Jenna McCullough) governesses because she believes her mother, played by junior Lindsay Snider, does not love her. When the grandmother hires a new governess, this woman – determined to reform Laurel – transforms the entire household.

Much of the play centers on the personalities and de-

velopment of the characters, creating an important theme of growth.

"There is a real sense that, for our souls and spirits to grow, the soil has to be right," Manning said.

The word 'chalk' relates to this concept of growth, according to McCullough.

"You cannot grow things in chalky soil," she said. "A lot of the play is about trying to change your environment in order to grow."

While "The Chalk Garden" tackles serious themes, it also incorporates humor through the outrageous personalities of the characters.

"One thing Tracy has really worked with us a lot on is becoming a character on stage," freshman Jonathan Friday said. Friday plays the butler, Maitland.

Manning said each audience member should be able to relate to at least one of the characters.

"I think sometimes in

plays, characters aren't real enough to be quirky," she said. These people are so real."

One character, Pinkbell, does not appear onstage during the performance. Audience members will have the chance to guess Pinkbell's identity during the play's intermission.

The cast and crew have worked hard to also make the set realistic. Manning said the painting of the set was one of biggest challenges of production, since much of the set had to look like real wood.

"We started out on an empty stage, with masking tape on the floor to show us where staircases and doorways were," Friday said. "Now, I feel like I am in a home when I am on stage, not that I am on a set. It is very real."

This will be Manning's fifth Taylor production, having also directed "Little Wom-



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Student actors Michelle Hewitt as Mrs. St. Maugham and Jenna McCullough as Laurel work on a scene for Taylor Theatre's latest play, a dramedy about life growth.

en," "Flowers for Algernon," "A Man for All Seasons" and "Night Watch."

"The cast is just lovely," she said, "and all of it com-

ing together is just exciting."

The Taylor Theatre performs "The Chalk Garden" at 8 p.m. tonight, tomorrow and April 27 and 28 with a

matinee showing at 3 p.m. April 29. Tickets, available in the communication arts department office, cost \$6 for students.

'Collision' prepared to engage students

BY JESSICA MARTINI
CONTRIBUTOR

At Taylor, there are often few opportunities to "collide" with those of other cultures. With this in mind, the Multi-Ethnic Student Association created the first annual Multicultural Collision Week, this Monday through Wednesday.

The focus of Multicultural Collision Week is to encourage students to focus on issues of diversity and learn about and recognize different cultures, according to MESA Vice President senior Josh Canada.

"I really want Taylor to understand that diversity is neither a taboo nor an 'en vogue' word, but rather a word which displays the wonders of God's creation," Canada said.

According to Canada, Multicultural Collision Week is part of a holistic push toward understanding God's multicultural world.

"Often learning about other cultures is presented in tandem with ministry which ... seems to focus only on other cultures because of the need to reach people," Canada said. "[Get] to know other cultures because they have beauty [and] value ... Certain aspects of other cultures, whether it is how one shows respect or how one praises God, [have] things we can all learn from."

Remembrance services to mark one-year anniversary of fatal I-69 accident

Taylor will hold its one year anniversary remembrance chapel service on Wednesday in Rediger Auditorium at 10 a.m.

An evening service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, also in Rediger Auditorium.

"We will spend time specifically remembering the five we lost that night," Campus Pastor Randy Gruendyke said. "From there, we will go on to examine the things God has done in the lives of others as a result of this tragic occurrence. We will conclude with a look toward the future."

The services are held in remembrance of the four students - Brad Larson, Laurel Erb, Betsy Smith and Laura VanRyn - and one staff member - Monica Felver - who

To broaden cultural understanding, MESA has arranged for various organizations to host events where students can learn about other cultures.

The International Student Society will perform Celtic music and offer international desserts at 8:15 p.m. Monday in the Student Union.

Students can sip bubble tea and watch "Fearless," a film starring Jet Li as legendary Chinese martial artist Huo Yuanjia, Tuesday in Modelle Metcalf Visual Arts Center 002 at 8:15 p.m. as a presentation of the Asian Awareness Association.

Courtesy of AHANA and Light @ Night, Ed Gilbreath, author of the book "Reconciliation Blues: A Black Evangelical's Inside View of White Christianity," will speak at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Butz-Carruth Recital Hall.

Canada said he values his participation in MESA and AHANA because it has deepened his appreciation for God.

"I have had experiences and conversations with those who are white, black, Asian, Latin, domestic [and] international," he said. "There are just so many ways I find God working. If there is anyone in the world who should not be separated by race, ethnicity [and] culture, it should be those who share a dedication [to] Christ Jesus."

died in an accident on I-69 shortly after 8 p.m. on April 26, 2006.

Injured in the crash were Creative Dining staff members Connie Magers, Michelle Miller and Vickie Rhodes, along with student Whitney Cerak.

"It will be a time to remember [the] five against that great backdrop of hope we have in the resurrection," Gruendyke said. "We will look back upon those we knew and loved - but it doesn't end there. We look forward to a great reunion and more work done in their memory and the furtherance of God's kingdom."

Some information and quotes compiled from www.taylor.edu.

Taylor dominates intramural tournament



Photos by Timmy Huynh

Left, Ben Glenn drives to the basket in the men's finals against Grace. Right, freshman Kristin Goeke takes a shot against IWU in the women's finals. On Saturday, Taylor hosted teams from Huntington, Grace and IWU Saturday in an intramural all-stars tournament. Taylor defeated Huntington 67-50 in the first round and beat Grace in the finals, 77-52. In the women's tournament, Taylor held off IWU 38-35 and handled Grace 53-39 in the round-robin portion. In an overtime thriller, the women's team again beat IWU 43-35. "It was a lot of fun to be able to play with the group of guys we had," senior Kyle Lantz said. "It was great to be able to dominate Huntington, Grace and IWU the way we did."

Disney hopes dashed, but not destroyed

BY MEGAN BAIRD
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Disneyland is notoriously a magical place, but this enchantment failed to reach senior Deb Gates when she learned last week she had lost the Disney Dream "Job" Contest.

"I wasn't crushed when I heard the news," Gates said. "I was disappointed and sad that I would have to tell everyone that I didn't make it, but I had a fun time doing this contest and am happy that I even made it to the final round."

Gates entered the contest

two months ago, submitting a 45-second video detailing why she was the best pick for a Disney Pirate.

Disney named her one of 20 pirate finalists and posted her video on the contest's site, where people voted until March 30 for their favorite pirate.

"When I got back from Spring Break, I had a message on YouTube from another pirate who said [Disney] had called him a few days ago and that he was one of the grand prize winners," Gates said.

If voters had chosen Gates as one of the five Disney Pi-

rate grand prize winners, she and three friends would have flown to the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif., for a stay of four days and three nights.

They would also have received free plane tickets, hotel accommodations and Park Hopper tickets and would have gotten one \$250 voucher.

Gates believes the winning pirates generated more publicity for their campaigns.

"My approach was to send all of my friends and family e-mails and Facebook invitations about it, hoping that they would help spread the

word," she said. "I know they all did a good job doing this, and I know a lot of people were very faithful in voting for me every day, but I guess I needed more strangers to be voting for me."

Despite her defeat, Gates said she would enter another Disney contest.

"I entered this contest purely for [my] own enjoyment, and [I] definitely had a blast," she said. "I had a great time making it to the finals, spreading the word, being in the paper and just talking to others about it."

Youth Conference builds on 71 years of history

BY STEPHAN LEMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

For 71 years, new generations of Taylor students have begun to get excited about Youth Conference as spring arrives. And for 52 of those years, Jay Kesler, president emeritus of Taylor, has also eagerly awaited the start of YC.

From his term as YC co-director to now, Kesler said YC has always held a special place in his heart. He has watched it develop and continues to desire growth for the future of the ministry.

YC started in 1936 after the TU Men’s Quartet returned from a tour on which they saw a need among high school students for spiritual growth. They developed the idea to bring students to Taylor for a weekend conference so they could experience collegiate spiritual community.

The conference became one of the nation’s first gatherings of its kind for youth.

Kesler transferred to Taylor from Ball State University in 1955, when YC was the biggest event of the year for Taylor students. Over 1,000 high school students arrived on the 550-student campus each year for the conference.

Taylor got mattresses from local camps, and every dorm room housed two or three teenagers.

“There weren’t as many distractions, such as technology, to take our time back then,” Kesler said. “We were able to throw ourselves completely into the ministry.”

But the honest impact Taylor students had on conference attendees impressed Kesler more than the number of student participants.

“The evangelism was the main take-away of the conference, [as was] the total involvement of the whole student body,” Kesler said. “It

was the students that made it. Ordinary people, telling ordinary high school kids of God’s love.”

According to Kesler, church youth groups back then were different – smaller and less inviting to students looking to become Christians – than today’s youth groups. YC became a place where students had freedom to think for themselves and make their own life-altering decisions.

YC also gave high school students role models to emulate in the Taylor students they met.

“Youth Conference is challenging high school students to explore their faith and their hearts deeper than they probably ever have before.”

- Bret Burchard -

“Here were 15-year-olds who think so highly of 20-year-olds ... It was someone to look up to,” Kesler said. “A caring 20-year-old concerned about their spiritual life. That is a transforming experience for them.”

Kesler believes YC’s greatest attribute comes from the accepting community of believers the conference provides for students.

“In a world of push and shove, for a kid to be brought into an accepting community is such a testimony,” Kesler said. “They may never be in a place where they have the chance to be mentored by a caring older student who legitimately cares about them.

“For some, they may not be from a place where something as meaningful as a smile on the sidewalk from a stranger would ever be experienced.”

Though the number of teens in attendance has decreased from the conference’s earliest years – 298 attended



Photo by Amy Wood

Last year’s Youth Conference small group leaders gather in the chapel to await the arrival of their students.

last year’s YC – the impact YC has on the attendees remains the same, according to Joann Rediger, a Taylor music professor who served as Youth Conference co-director in 1971.

“The event is life changing, and that is the bottom line,” Rediger said. “The one-on-one interactions that the conference gives us a chance to experience with these high school students has the opportunity to change their lives.”

Junior YC cabinet member Bret Burchard agreed with Rediger.

“When you see high-schoolers in tears and on their faces in prayer and submission, and you see small group leaders praying over them, it is obvious there is some-

thing powerful going on in their hearts,” Burchard said. “Youth Conference is challenging high school students to explore their faith and their hearts deeper than they probably ever have before.”

Junior YC Co-Director Benj Petroelje also noted the effect of YC on high school attendees.

“Youth Conference has become a respected ministry

and genuinely has something to offer both our campus and our surrounding communities,” Petroelje said. “[It] has had a real impact on people’s lives.”

Kesler likens YC to Light-house and spring break trips. While those trips allow Taylor students to interact with people from other countries and cultures, YC allows youth to interact with Taylor culture.

“The fact that YC has been such a positive experience for so many over the years allows us to continue to push the conference in fresh and deep ways,” Petroelje said. “We are seeking to create an atmosphere for these students where real questions can be asked, real conversations can take place and real change can occur.”

Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser Dinner for 2-year-old Nathan Taylor's cancer treatments

When: Monday, April 23, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Where: Upland Elementary School
Cost: \$5 chicken or \$7 meal

Runners' records: journals from the Boston Marathon

BY JAKE LENTSCHER
AND DREW HAMER
CONTRIBUTORS

SATURDAY

Jake (January Taylor graduate) – The excitement of the race became a lot more real as I spent the day touring the city with my family and Deb [Gates, senior]. There are runners everywhere we go. We made our way downtown to the site of the finish line for the race. It was there that my heart began to race uncontrollably.

Bleachers were set up on each side of the street, and camera crews were working hard to set up all of their equipment. A huge decorative finish line mat was stretched across the width of the street.

This race is a pretty big deal. What if I don’t get to experience the joy of running across this finish line? What if my IT band acts up after a few miles and I never get to endure Heartbreak Hill?

I tried not to dwell on these nervous thoughts, but they were certainly doing their best to creep into my head.

SUNDAY

Jake – It was difficult to think about anything but the race today. The terrible weather was one thing that I needed to be prepared for.

After spending much of the day in the city, I went for a quick mile run with

Deb outside to get an idea of what to wear for the race. It was pouring rain, and the wind was gusting uncontrollably. This run got me really pumped up for the marathon. I was excited about the challenge of the difficult weather conditions.

As evening approached, I began to get nervous about whether or not my family and friends would see us during the marathon. I would hate for them to come all this way and not even see us once as we ran. Eventually, I stopped thinking about this and just wanted to get to sleep so I’d be rested for the big day.

Drew (senior) – Two days until race day. I try not to think about it, in order to avoid the butterflies that haunt my stomach.

The forecast is in our favor. People are flipping out, because it is supposed to be low 40s, raining and 30-mph winds. Please. That’s a normal training day in Upland. Weather: one point Hamer/Lentscher, zero points for the Kenyans.

We drove until five this morning. We would have gotten to Boston around 3 p.m., but we couldn’t pass up the idea of Times Square at 3 a.m. Two hours, \$13 and many mad taxi drivers later, we were back on the road.

Today a friend is showing us around the downtown. Good thing we brought our

personal history major, [senior] Micah Smith. Jake needed someone to explain what the Boston Tea Party was and why there was so much ado about a hill with a bunker on it. Good times! Fun factor: two points Hamer/Lentscher, still zero points for the Kenyans.

“As we crossed the finish line, I was filled with an incredible sense of accomplishment.”

-Jake Lentscher -

It’s been said that runners are not the most introspective people. Although I desperately want to disagree, I guess that is fairly true for me. I can run for two hours and think of nothing more than Big Macs, resting, my fiancée, dorm life and Ibuprofen.

However, I’d like to think that over these last 700 miles or so of running I’ve had a few deeper thoughts or conversations. For example, I finally know why I run. Honestly, I can’t say I love running. I love parts of it, but I don’t actually enjoy the sport of running all that much. I think I’d prefer to be good at something else.

One main reason I run is because Jake keeps challenging me. Challenging me with marathons, paces, distances, future races, and I just can’t look at a challenge and say

“no.” Most days I run because Jake challenges me.

I run for my dad. My dad’s dream was to run the New York City Marathon, but he never got to accomplish that dream because of cancer.

That leads me to another reason. I run because I am physically able, and so I run for all those that can’t.

I run because I love the competition of race day. I may not win, but the real competition is against myself.

I run because I love the people I meet and because it is a mission field. I pray my actions, my words and my composure all point to Christ. Which is really the main reason to run.

In “Chariots of Fire,” Eric Liddle says, “When I run, I feel the Lord’s pleasure.” God made me fast enough to run competitively, so I give my gift back to him.

I’m scared, but that fear causes excitement. The idea of not accomplishing our goals is scary, but isn’t that life?

Tomorrow will be one for the books: the weather, the energy, the injuries. All the pieces of the puzzle are here. Now it’s time to put it together.

We have dreamed of Heartbreak Hill and the finish line for almost eight months. Tomorrow we get our chance.

MONDAY

Jake – Words can’t really describe the emotion of making

that final turn onto Boylston Street and seeing the finish line only blocks away. With thousands of people lining the street and cheering their hearts out, we couldn’t help but run faster.

As we crossed the finish line, I was filled with an incredible sense of accomplishment, excitement and, most of all, gratitude to God.

Drew and I couldn’t help but immediately thank God for the grace he had shown us. He allowed us both to complete this great race despite the lingering injuries. It was only by his sustaining hand that we were given the health and strength to run at all. This was an experience that I will never forget.

Drew – Experience of a lifetime. Now I just don’t want to forget it.

I don’t want to forget the start, the weather, the faces, the runners, the quitters, the fans cheering us on, the excitement, the hills – espe-

cially Heartbreak Hill – or the finish.

It was better than I ever imagined. I think we ran all 26.2 with smiles on our faces. We recalled motivational Scripture, biblical parallels, personal motivation, the past pessimism, the days of training and all the dreaming.

Turning the final corner was like running into the Coliseum. Running past Wellesley womens’ college, however, was like running into a coliseum of screaming women.

It was amazing. The whole thing was awesome. I hurt so badly now, but the smile still won’t leave. People have cheered for us like they were lifelong friends. I might have an addiction.

I know the tally was two points Jake/Drew, zero points Kenyan. However, the Kenyans won this one by a hair. When it comes to unthinkable running ability: one point Kenyans, zero points Hamer/Lentscher. What an experience. What a dream.

Casa Patricia Apartments

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'Disturbia' brings new twists to familiar territory

BY ANDREW NEEL
SPORTS EDITOR

"Disturbia," a thriller starring Shia LaBeouf, made a theater full of teenagers scream, and it wasn't because they thought the former Disney star was "super hot."

The film is clearly doing something right.

"Disturbia" is a modern remake of the Hitchcock classic "Rear Window" and centers on the nosy habits of Kale (LaBeouf), a high school student placed on house arrest for the summer after assaulting his Spanish teacher.

When Kale's mother shuts off his Xbox and takes away his television, he starts spying on his neighbors as a form of "reality TV."

Two neighbors who draw special attention from Kale are Ashley (Sarah Roemer), an attractive girl who recently moved next door, and the mysterious Mr. Turner (David Morse), who has a car that matches a vehicle connected to a missing person's investigation.

Kale eventually meets Ashley, and the two become friends. This relationship appears forced, but it is not overly distracting from the rest of the film.

This is where a spoiler warning would normally ap-



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

"Disturbia" debuted at No. 1 in the box office last weekend, making over \$22 million and establishing Shia LaBeouf as a successful leading man. The film received a PG-13 rating for sequences of terror and violence, and some sensuality.

pear, but unless viewers have never seen a movie before, "Disturbia" won't surprise anyone. It is painfully obvious Kale will get the girl, the bad guy will get caught and

everyone will live happily ever after.

But "Disturbia" does have some genuinely terrifying moments. Through a combination of unique camera an-

gles and expressive lighting effects, director D.J. Caruso does an exceptional job of creating suspense and terror. This is most evident at the end of the film, when Turn-

er chases Kale through two houses, both of which have rooms that alternate between bright and dim lighting.

Caruso also lets the camera 'sneak up' on Kale from

behind as he's trying to hide from Turner while searching for his mother.

The film also succeeds as a thriller because of Morse's performance. While Turner may not be as frightening as Hannibal Lecter ("The Silence of the Lambs"), Morse delivers a chillingly creepy role, blending the personalities of Lecter, an angry stepfather and the creepy old man from "Family Guy."

While it is not the focus of the film, the friendship between Kale and Ronnie (Aaron Yoo) adds lighthearted moments and generates a simultaneously horrifying and hilarious scene where Ronnie pranks Kale by faking his own death immediately after an intense situation.

"Disturbia" fails in the same areas as most teen movies: predictability, cheesy dialogue and poor story development. Despite these problems, "Disturbia" has resonated with its target audience, generating over \$22 million opening weekend and giving LaBeouf a solid start as a leading man.

Don't see this film expecting another "Rear Window," but if you want to see a funny, fast-paced thriller, "Disturbia" is a decent choice.

Movie Rating: 6.5 out of 10.

Lily Allen dares to be real

BY JOSH PORTER
A&E EDITOR

Eating fake, waxy fruit is not as satisfying as munching the real thing. Such is most pop music: It's phony and melts together into a puddle of sticky goo.

Which is why Lily Allen is so refreshing.

Allen desires to bring something unique to the music industry. She throws some bitter break-up songs onto her new album, "Alright, Still," but her subject matter is mostly one-of-a-kind.

To clarify, Allen is not lyrically wholesome, which is her main fault as an artist. Her unapologetic nature is admirable to a certain extent because it sets her apart. And to be fair, her home country of England is more accepting of her language. Still, many Americans consider singing about the size of your ex-boyfriend's privates ("Not Big") crass.

But examine one of her American competitors. Fergie's subject of choice varies between her hump (her hump, her hump, her hump) and a made-up adjective ("Fergalicious") to describe just how much she resembles herself.

Allen relies on more than just a catchy beat and makes you care about what she sings. Her lyrics and style give her a down-to-earth quality, as if she's actually a real person (Fergie is currently suspected to be a fem-bot). She just sings about exactly what's going on in her life. In "Alfie," Allen encourages her little brother, Alfie, to quit getting high and reclaim his life. In "Friend of Mine," she expresses a disdain for fake, two-faced relationships among women.

While a few of Allen's songs (particularly post-



Photo courtesy of g-images.amazon.com

Lily Allen's first album, "Alright, Still," debuted in America on Jan. 30 and reached No. 20 on U.S. charts.

Allen is lyrically gifted, which is why it's frustrating she felt the need to restrict her fan base with a Parental Advisory label.

breakup songs like "Smile" and "Not Big") have nothing new to say, many of them say it in an interesting way. Allen is lyrically gifted, which is why it's frustrating she felt the need to restrict

her fan base with a Parental Advisory label. Still, listeners should encourage her brand of unique songwriting.

Beyond the lyrics, Allen is a great singer. Her voice

sounds natural, mainly uncontaminated by digital distortion. The album maintains a distinct lounge-singer feel; listening to it is like getting lost and stumbling upon a café band playing superior live music.

Every artist wants to sell CDs, but it's easier to respect the ones like Lily Allen who say something out of the ordinary. Just what does a song like "Fergalicious" have to say? Fergie might as well be standing on a curb in L.A., holding a sign that reads, "Will sing for money."

A Web site out of the ordinary



Photos courtesy of wreckedfortheordinary.com

BY MEGAN BAIRD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Wrecked for the Ordinary (www.wreckedfortheordinary.com) is an e-zine launched this January as a branch of Adventures in Missions, an organization that sponsors short-term mission trips. Wrecked Editor-in-Chief Jeff Goins shared some information about the goals and missions of Wrecked, a publication that, according to its Web site, "does not seek what it is, but rather what it should be."

Q: Can you describe the mission of Wrecked for the Ordinary?

A: The mission is to awaken and challenge a generation of young adults to follow an unsafe Christ in a world that's numbed by pop Christianity ...

The Christian culture doesn't have to be one way. It doesn't have to be what Rick Warren says it's supposed to be in "The Purpose-Driven Church," and it doesn't have to be what Chris Tomlin sings about in a worship song. And none of those things are bad, but the minute we start saying that this is what the church looks like – this is the body of Christ and how it should function systematically and institutionally – we lose a lot of the fun and radical passion that accompanied the early church.

And so our vision, what we're starting with the Web site, we're re-imagining culture. And if you know anything about Shane Claiborne, he started up a DVD series that's kind of in line with this. It's called "Another World Is Possible," [which says] another culture is possible, just another mindset, another way as the new church to be the body of Christ ... and I hope that the way that we want to do that is at the pulpit, going deeper and a little more meaningful than sometimes the church in America thinks it ought to be.

Q: As editor-in-chief, what goals do you have for Wrecked?

A: Well, our big picture goal is to reach a million young people, a million visitors to the Web site who are reading the articles and engaging in what we're trying to com-

municate. Personally, we're unobjective to the whole question of, "What does it mean to get a bunch of stories about Jesus wrecking people's lives in the best way possible, changing their lives and getting them to think less about themselves and more about the kingdom of God?"

But the objective is to get our name out there, to get more and more people influenced by [the Web site] so that we can make a profound impact on our culture, not by just choosing to campaign, not by having lots of seeker-friendly worship services, but just by telling stories and sharing the glory of God.

That's really what the Bible is and that's how the church started, with just people traveling and sharing profound stories about what God is doing. Sometimes in America we just don't engage enough in that ancient media of storytelling.

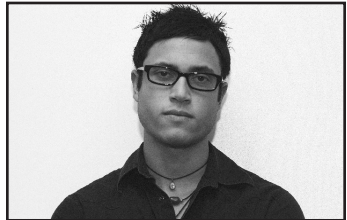
Q: How do you hope people, both Christians and non-Christians, react when they visit the "Wrecked" Web site?

A: I guess that depends on what their background is. I hope that when Christians visit the site, I hope that some people are a little bit shaken up. I'm not going to be disappointed if some people get offended, because Christ was offensive. He said, "If you don't eat my flesh and drink my blood then you can't inherit eternal life." That was most definitely offensive ...

The point is not to go around offending people. The point is to share truth. And so I hope when people ... come on the Web site, whether they're a Christian, non-Christian, atheist, agnostic, whatever label they go by, [the Web site] looks like truth ...

They don't have to agree with it, they don't have to like it, but I just hope that we're genuine and authentic ... I just hope the message comes off as being authentic and that some kind of internal chord can get struck in someone's soul and they can really resonate with the truth.

Those interested in contributing articles to "Wrecked" should e-mail questions or submissions to editor@wreckedfortheordinary.com.



BY MARC BELCASTRO
OPINIONS EDITOR

I would like to inquire into whether Christians are typically able to provide an adequate or a reasonable defense of their beliefs, especially with regard to the objections raised by atheism.

Apologetics, an aspect of theology concerned with defending or offering proof for Christianity, is the sort of material with which I strongly believe Christians should make themselves (more than merely) acquainted.

Alex Frank, in his Opinions article from last week, offered some potential arguments atheists might employ. They are as follows: (1) The Bible contradicts itself; (2) the Bible is a loose translation of old, unverified documents; (3) the Bible preaches hatred and intolerance.

These are fine places to begin — very important objections to address — but I am not sure they comprise some of the fundamental arguments atheism levels against theism. Here are some others an atheist might utilize:

The problem of evil — God either actively endorses, passively condones or is unable to prevent the outrageous types of evil and suffering that occur in abundance around the world.

God’s incoherence — The very concept of God is (logically) incoherent. An omnipotent God should be able to create a stone too heavy for him to lift. But if he cannot lift the stone, then he is not omnipotent, and if he cannot create such a stone, then he is not omnipotent.

The incompatibility of God’s omnipotence and om-

niscience — If God is omniscient and omnipotent, he knows precisely how he will omnipotently intervene in human history. But that means he is incapable of changing his mind concerning how he will intervene, so God cannot be both omniscient and omnipotent.

Causation — It is inconceivable for something to come into existence without a cause, which is why we require a cause to be assigned to everything that comes into existence. How can God, therefore, exist without needing a cause?

If you do not believe these arguments are sufficient or convincing, are you able to furnish a response detailing why? Are you acquainted with how theists have handled such argumentation?

Now I will briefly mention how a theist may reply to the above objections. I will not address the problem of evil because, given the space constraints, I think I would actually do the counterarguments a disservice.

God’s incoherence — Omnipotence does not imply the ability to bring about a contradiction, like making something exist and not exist simultaneously, which this objection entails.

The incompatibility issue — The objection itself is incoherent and stating nonsense. The concept behind “changing one’s mind” usually involves improving upon a previous decision, but a perfect being would have no need for such an alteration.

Causation — Things exist and cannot come into existence without a cause, so a first cause is necessary to initiate the existence of subsequent things. It is impossible to have an infinite series of “non-first” causes, for we can ask how those non-first causes were initiated. Therefore, there must be a first, uncaused cause.

America's hidden curse

BY JOSH PORTER
A&E EDITOR

Bono, lead singer of the band U2, slipped up during the 2003 Golden Globe awards ceremony. Many may still remember the incident. He uttered the f-word — one of the most deplorable words known to Americans — on NBC network television.

The Federal Communications Commission ultimately decided not to fine NBC, as Bono’s expletive wasn’t used in a sexually descriptive manner. Bono said, “This is really, really f----- brilliant.”

The FCC went on record saying that “the use of specific words, including expletives or other ‘four-letter words,’ does not render material obscene.”

The Parents Television Council, a Los Angeles-based watchdog group, attempted to appeal the decision, believing the FCC was essentially “splitting hairs.” Who was right?

We can hopefully agree that American broadcast television isn’t appropriate for the kind of language Bono used. However, at that time, the Golden Globes ceremony was a live event with no time delay, and accidents happen. Still, these two organizations’ conflicting views on the subject call into question just how harmful curse words are.

While many upstanding

citizens certainly consider cursing to be generally low-brow, the main concern when dealing with these words seems to be their influence on children. Having been a child once, I can certainly relate. The most hurtful things said to me didn’t include curse words. If they did, it was an afterthought.

And what about adults? If the main reason for grown-ups to avoid cursing amongst themselves is because it’s low-brow, then perhaps using a sentence fragment is just as deplorable as throwing the f-word into a complete one.

Now, I’m not suggesting that curse words are as benign as any other word. Wiser people will decline to use them, or utter them only for emphasis. I’m simply saying that condemning curse words isn’t getting to the heart of the matter.

It seems to me that inventing profanities is the natural progression of a bigger problem. They effectively hint at the obscene without actually stating it. We’re still saying hurtful things to each other.

I believe parents should not tolerate profanity from their children. But more importantly, they should take the time to teach them ethical discernment in the words they speak. Restricting seven or eight words isn’t enough, and it’s ultimately meaningless without morality.

BY PHILIP FISCELLA

In Alex Frank’s article that appeared in last week’s Echo, Frank wrote “[The atheist] doesn’t bother asking anyone who may be able to call him out.”

First of all, I would like to suggest that the same is true for most Christians.

However, if you look at the statistics, atheists are much more prevalent among those who have attained higher education. This is especially true in fields such as biology, astronomy or geology, which present a challenge to traditional beliefs.

As a Christian preparing for a career in ministry, I once thought I had all the answers. After asking those who could “call me out,” I found that my beliefs were deeply flawed, and after not finding any solution, finally

gave them up. Many skeptics will tell a similar story.

Personal allegory aside, you’ll find that people in the poorer, less educated parts of the world are, in general, more superstitious.

I’ve even had friends tell me about how Satan is still possessing people, but that he is much more active in places like Africa! Somehow they miss the obvious conclusion: There is no devil, but some people don’t know how else to classify certain diseases. Education and rational thought will usually erode superstition, not promote it.

Frank also wrote that “many ‘atheists’ in the real world are atheists simply because they are seeking to justify the lifestyle they are already living.”

I’m sure you’re aware that people of all creeds behave

Reflecting on Taylor's grief observed

BY BOB NEIDECK

As a counselor, it’s my training to be ready; it’s my job to be ready.

I was sure when April 26, 2007, arrived, I’d be ready for the sadness, ready to enter into the sense of loss the campus would feel again.

Then came the Bluffton baseball team accident, and I got a little ambushed by the sadness I felt. After that came the death of a new friend, and once again the sadness was deeper than I anticipated. Next came the tragedy at Virginia Tech, and although I knew no one there, I found myself staggered by sadness once again.

Internationally acclaimed counselor Dr. Alan Wolfelt calls these spasms of sadness “griefbursts.” They often come without warning and can be triggered by things we would never expect. They can leave us feeling disrupted and confused all over again, and we’re not sure why.

We don’t like the ambigui-

ty of loss, the uncertainty that comes with grief. We know the psalmist wrote, “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10), but we’d prefer to, “Be still and know the reason why.”

Grief is disorderly; it takes the shape of a spiral rather than that of a straight line. We think we’ve moved forward only to return to that sad place again. We think we’ve left behind the intense pain, and we’re so relieved, but then it gets triggered again, and we wonder what is wrong with us.

We wonder why our grief isn’t following the prescribed stages written about in the textbooks. We wonder why God isn’t restoring us back to “normal.” We strive to get past the negative emotions and moods quickly and efficiently, through hard work, faith and “letting go,” but “normal” never comes, and we don’t know why.

I guess “normal” never comes because our lives are altered forever by death, loss and trauma. We’re changed

Remembering Earth Day

BY DEREK SHIELS

We love holidays. This Sunday is another special day our society has set aside to remember. Unfortunately, many times it goes unnoticed and unobserved.

Maybe when you were younger you planted a tree or picked up trash on this day. Earth Day has been celebrated every year since 1970, with now over 500 million people and 175 nations recognizing it.

Why does Earth Day come and go without us ever knowing? Is it that we don’t know how to celebrate it?

Planting a tree is good, but that might be compared to giving a gift on Christmas or lighting fireworks for the Fourth of July — like the millions who celebrate Christmas because of Santa Claus, but don’t realize there’s something deeper to the day.

If there’s something deeper to be understood about Earth Day, will it lead to something holy and worth thinking about? Yes. Earth day has come to be one of my favorite days. I love to ponder the deeper ideas and thoughts behind the celebration of Earth Day.

One of the ideas I’ve pondered is that this day is a time to hear the plants and ani-

mals praising God. We could listen and hear songbirds, crickets, an owl or maybe just the wind, and we might hear God through these expressions of praise.

Earth Day could be a day to be aware of nature and how it reveals the qualities of God: the hail and storms no one can withstand, the incomprehensible vastness of space and the sunsets no artist can capture.

Perhaps it’s a day to give the owner his rent for our continued leasing. The rent is affordable, but it’s not free. He asks for acknowledgement and thanksgiving and wise stewardship of what is his. Earth Day could be a day to evaluate and then improve our caretaking.

Another idea is that this day could signify the opportunity we have to be a part of a great choir. We’re God’s special creation, created in his image, but we’re only part of the whole earth that he calls good and died for. It could be a day to stretch our vocal cords.

One more thought. Earth Day could be a day to petition the Lord for redemption and restoration that only he can provide. The earth groans eagerly for the Lord’s return. We, too, should make our eagerness known!

badly sometimes. Personally, I feel that I’ve become a better and more tolerant person since my loss of faith (there’s still a long way to go). I haven’t seen any evidence that atheists are any worse than theists.

Indeed, I know a lot of Christians (even here at Taylor) who do things I would never even consider doing. Ethics seem to be more about maturity than religion. That said, it’s hard to get a large enough sample to really tell, as most non-believers are not forthcoming about their lack of belief.

Frankly, we’re not seeking converts; we just want to be left alone.

There is also a great deal of stigma (as you’ve so helpfully highlighted) attached to the phrase “atheist.” According to the American Mosaic Project, atheists are the least

accepted minority group in American society. This would help explain why, of the 7-9 percent of people who don’t believe in any god, less than 1 percent will label themselves “atheists.”

Finally, I’ll readily agree with you that I am uncomfortable with some of the teachings of the Bible, as any civilized person ought to be. It teaches intolerance, prescribes capital punishment for myriad petty offenses, and its god is depicted as commanding genocide, the systematic rape of young girls, the murder of their fathers, mothers and brothers, slavery, war and a host of other horrible injustices.

As the well-known agnostic Ingersoll put it, if these were the commands of God, what, under the same circumstances, would have been the commands of a devil?

by grief and don’t return to prior states of “normalcy” through the interventions of outside sources. Not even the intercession of a loving God will return things to the way they were.

Helen Keller said, “The only way to the other side is through.” When we enter into grief, we enter into the valley of shadows. There’s nothing noble or heroic about grieving. It’s painful, it lingers, and it’s work. But it’s certainly necessary for all kinds of losses.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). Mourning, then, seems to be the way through. Grief is what we think and feel after a loss; mourning is the outward expression of those thoughts and feelings.

By mourning we express our feelings about our loss, and we invite others to join

us. By mourning we express our protest at the loss as well as our desire to change what happened and have it not be true. By mourning we express the effects we have experienced from the devastating impact of the loss. By mourning we may experience God in a new way that will help us reconcile the new “normal.” As Job said, “My ears had heard of you before. But now my eyes have seen you” (Job 42:5).

Lord God, I wish it were true that “brokenness is what I long for,” but it’s not. I’d like to be spared of pain and sorrow, but it seems to find me anyway. Grant me courage and endurance. Let me know that I’m never away from your love, no matter how difficult my circumstances.

Dear God, April 26 is coming, which means sadness is coming. But it also means a chance to mourn is coming. Help me to be ready for that.

The Echo

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The mission of *The Echo* is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University’s campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. *The Echo* also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be sent to echo@tayloru.edu by **3 p.m. Wednesday** and be no longer than **400 words**. Due to volume, not all opinion articles received can be printed. Opinions should be kept as concise as possible. The Echo reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.

Trojans attempt to bounce back

TU baseball wins two at Goshen after losing six of seven games



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Junior Christian Burrell hits a double for the Trojans in Monday's doubleheader against Huntington. Taylor dropped the first game to Huntington 7-6 and fell 12-8 to the Foresters in the second contest.

By RYAN SCHMUCKER
CONTRIBUTOR
WITH ANDREW NEEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Taylor's baseball team found itself in a slump as it traveled to Goshen Thursday, but the Trojans started regaining momentum with two key wins.

Taylor (22-21, 8-9 Mid-Central Conference) had

dropped six of its last seven games before grabbing two MCC victories against the Maple Leafs.

The Trojans won the first game 4-1 and held on for a dramatic 7-2 win in the 11-inning second game.

The team still has a chance to make the regional tournament, but the Trojans will have to win the conference

tournament to do so.

"We have failed to make the most of promising opportunities to either take or hold a lead," senior Chris Nycz said. "We need to keep focusing on the little things involved in the game of baseball and ... we plan on cleaning those things up as we look to make a run into the conference tournament."

Taylor traveled to Huntington Friday to make up a game that had been postponed due to rain. Freshman pitcher Landon Good took the loss in game one, as the Foresters came out swinging and Huntington cruised to an 8-0 win. The Foresters held Taylor's offense to just two hits all game, both coming from freshman Michael

Kraynak.

In game two, Nycz started and pitched all seven innings for the Trojans in a five-hit performance in which he allowed only one earned run and picked up the win, 12-2, as Taylor's offense finally broke out of its slump.

The two teams met again Monday at Taylor to finish out the conference series. In the first game, the Trojans gave up a lead in the sixth inning, when Huntington came roaring back to tie the game at 6-6.

In the final inning, the Foresters scored one run and shut down Taylor's offense to grab the 7-6 victory. Nycz took the loss in pitching relief for the Trojans.

In the second game, Huntington jumped out to an early 7-0 lead. The Trojans responded and closed the gap to 7-6 before Huntington put the game out of reach for good and held on for the 12-8 win, completing its two-game sweep at Taylor. Freshman pitcher Ryan Boden took the loss for Taylor.

The Trojans visited rival Anderson Tuesday in a non-conference match-up that ended in a disappointing 5-4 loss for Taylor.

Freshman Landon Anspach got the start for the Trojans and only allowed two runs through his five innings pitched. The Trojan offense was anything but silent, banging out 11 hits on the game. Sophomore Paul Passiales, Pease and Kraynak led the Trojans at the plate with two hits each.

The two teams entered the ninth inning tied 2-2. Taylor came up first in the inning and scored two runs to gain the lead 4-2.

But the Ravens proved their resolve by scoring three runs in the bottom of the ninth against Trojans freshman pitcher Caleb Stertzler to hand him the loss.

The loss against the Ravens is a microcosm of the last several weeks of the Trojans' season, where the team has been competitive until the final at-bat, but has not been able to put the opposition away.

"We've played well at times, but we keep beating ourselves late in games when we don't finish strong," junior Drew Severns said.

The Trojans return to action 1 p.m. tomorrow in a doubleheader at MCC opponent Bethel.

York breaks 20-year-old record at Little State

Men's team finishes seventh, women's team places 13th at track meet in Indy

By ANNA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

Senior Lolly York's record-breaking time in the 10,000-meter run led the Taylor women's track team to a 13th place finish at last weekend's Little State Championships in Indianapolis, while the men's team finished seventh of 20 teams.

"I was completely shocked at the outcome of the 10,000," York said. "My goal was to qualify for nationals with a time of over 38 minutes, so I was completely surprised to run a 36:45."

York qualified for the NAIA National Championships in the 10,000 with a second-place finish of 36:45.32, which is 54 seconds faster than the 20-year-old Taylor record time of 37:41.20 held by Jodi Williamson.

"The competition was incredible, especially the three other girls that were in the front pack with me," York said. "There is no way that I could have run as well without these girls pushing me throughout the whole race."

York said a talk about lap splits she had with Coach Ted Bowers before the race

helped her focus on each lap instead of the race as a whole and made the goal of a 38-minute finish seem realistic.

Sophomore Ian Brown led the men's team with a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash and a second-place run

"The competition was incredible ... There is no way I could have run as well without these girls pushing me."

-Lolly York-

in the 200 with times of 11.05

and 21.96, respectively.

"It was nice to see how we stack up to some of the larger schools in Indiana," sophomore Chris Leman said of the men's team's seventh-place finish.

The 4x400-relay team of freshmen Dave Voss and Brad Wetherell, sophomore Andy Marston and senior Randal Dunbar took third with a time of 3:24.19.

"It wasn't great weather; it was freezing rain, but we came together as a team and said, 'We're not going to let this affect us,'" Dunbar said.

"It was a real good race in

real difficult circumstances," Bowers said. "Our four guys ran really well."

Leman set a personal record with a time of 1:55.21 in the 800, finishing seventh.

Freshman David Brooks also set a personal record in the 800 with a 10th-place time of 1:56.86, while junior Drew Cowan placed fifth in the discus throw with a distance of 153-4.

"[Cowan] is developing consistency at a high level," Bowers said. "He's shooting for the 160's, and I think he'll get there."

For the women's team,

freshman Elizabeth Hawn, senior Amanda Jackson, and juniors Kelsey Randall and Vanessa Fereshetian placed ninth in the 4x100 with a team-best time of 53.35.

In the hammer throw, junior Deborah Best threw 112-4, placing 12th.

Although not competing at the Little State meet, freshman Hilary Pederson ran a half marathon the same weekend in Columbus, Ohio. Her time qualified her for the NAIA national meet.

The teams compete tomorrow in Bourbonnais, Ill., for a meet at Olivet Nazarene.

TU softball gets split against IWU

By AMY WATKINS
CONTRIBUTOR

Taylor faced off with conference rival Indiana Wesleyan yesterday in a doubleheader. The games ended as mirror images, with Taylor winning the first contest 4-0 and IWU winning the second by the same score.

Taylor (7-18, 4-4 Mid-Central Conference) came into the games off a pair of wins against Grace that placed the team in the middle of the MCC standings. IWU (19-9, 8-6) has consistently been one of the better teams in the conference and the matchup presented a challenge for the Lady Trojans. Still, Taylor was able to emerge victorious in the first game due to a great team effort.

Junior shortstop Erica Yoder was excited to see her team rise to the occasion.

"The fact that it was a conference game against IWU turns up the heat a bit in our hearts," she said. "IWU has a strong program - there is no doubt about that. Games like today are a lot of fun and are why we work so hard in the off season."

Senior first baseman Amy Richardson agreed.

"Winning games in conference is always important," she said. "Shutting out a strong opponent just makes it that much better."

But the Lady Trojans did not get the same offensive production in the second game that they had in the first. IWU capitalized on opportunities, and as Coach Stephanie Smith explained, the momentum was all in the Wildcats' favor.

"Defensively we were relatively the same both games, but at the plate we didn't really string anything together," she said. "IWU came out hard in the first inning and took the momentum back. Things were just going [IWU's] way."

Sophomore Lindsey Arnold felt the team was able to execute its game plan more effectively in the first contest than the second.

"Our strategy is always to jump on them in the first inning by scoring and then to win each inning after that," she said, adding that the team failed to accomplish that in both games.



Photo by Ellen Koch

Sophomore Lindsey Arnold slides into home for the Lady Trojans in Wednesday's game against Indiana Wesleyan. Taylor won the first game of the doubleheader 4-0.

Yoder agreed with Arnold's assessment of the team's performance.

"Our strategy across the board is to win each inning," she said. "Offensively that means taking quality at bats, smart base running and ultimately scoring each inning. Defensively that means throwing our strong pitchers and having the defense that supports them."

"So many games this year we've just beat ourselves," Smith said. "This win should

prove to them that we can beat anybody. It doesn't matter who it is, as long as we play our game."

After a tough non-conference schedule at the beginning of the season, Taylor has gone 4-4 in conference games. With the season winding down, Richardson is optimistic about what the team can accomplish.

"It's exciting to see everything coming together for us," she said. "I expect that we will win a lot more games

this season and will be strong contenders in the conference tournament. We have solid pitching and strong hitting, so I see us doing very well in the next few weeks."

Arnold echoed her teammates' sentiments.

"My goal for our team would be to give everything that we have for the rest of our games," she said. "I don't want any regrets at the end of the season, and if we give all that we can then I don't think we can have regrets."

Trojans Sports

(Home games in bold)

Track

(Men)

7th of 20, Little State

(Women)

13th of 18, Little State

Upcoming events:

Saturday

at Olivet Nazarene

Baseball

(22-21, 8-9)

(1-1) at Huntington

(0-2) vs. Huntington

(0-1) at Anderson

W, 4-1 Goshen

W, 7-2 (11 innings) Goshen

Upcoming games:

Saturday

at Bethel 1 p.m.

Thursday

Indiana Wesleyan 1 p.m.

Softball

(7-18, 4-4)

(1-1) vs. St. Francis

(2-0) at Grace

(1-1) vs. Indiana Wesleyan

Upcoming games:

Saturday

at Marian 1 p.m.

Tuesday

Spring Arbor 3 p.m.

Thursday

at Goshen 3 p.m.